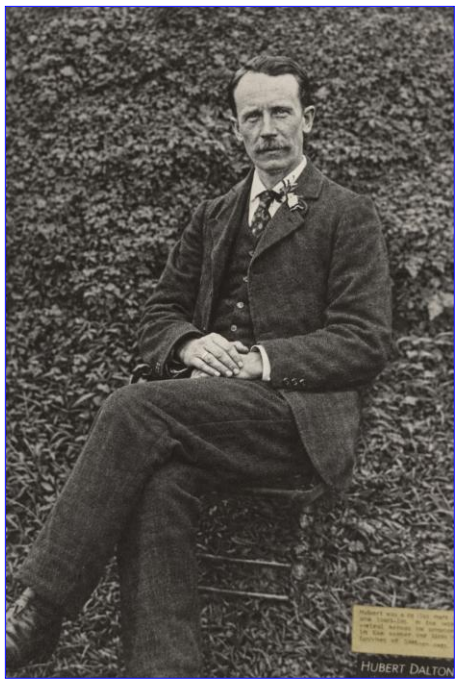
THE TWO DARRELLS,
HUBERT DARRELL AND DARRELL MORRISEY



STEPHEN MORRISSEY

THE TWO DARRELLS,
HUBERT DARRELL AND DARRELL MORRISEY

CORACLE
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The Two Darrells, Hubert Darrell and Darrell Morrisey © Stephen Morrissey, 2026

The cover photograph of Hubert Darrell is taken from Adam Shoalts' *Vanished Beyond the Map, The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell* (2025); the photograph was improved by Chat GPT. The cover photograph of Darrell Morrisey was provided by Cynthia Coristine; this photograph was also improved by Chat GPT.

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Coracle Press, Montreal, Canada

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The Darrell name interests me. The two Darrells who are discussed here are Hubert Darrell, an explorer of Canada's far north, and Darrell Morrisey, a visual artist who was a member of the Beaver Hall Group of artists. Adam Shoalts has written a biography of Hubert Darrell, *Vanished Beyond the Map, The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell* (2025). In 1890 Hubert Darrell came to Canada from the United Kingdom and became a farmer in Birtle, Manitoba; about ten years later Hubert Darrell moved to Canada's far north and became an explorer. Darrell Morrisey, from a wealthy Montreal family, was a talented artist who fell into obscurity after her early death.

There are similarities between Hubert Darrell (born, possibly on 12 April 1874) and Darrell Morrisey (born, 12 May 1897). Both left home at a young age; Darrell Morrisey moved to England and attended Tudor Hall School in Chislehurst when she was sixteen years old; Hubert Darrell moved to Canada when he was also sixteen years old. Both followed their inner calling and they lived lives that were unconventional for their time, one as an explorer, the other as an artist. Both were "forgotten" after they died despite their achievements; Hubert was thirty-six years old and Darrell was thirty-three years old. Both Hubert Darrell and Darrell Morrisey share an important connection; Darrell Morrisey was named after Charles Darrell, a business colleague and friend of Darrell's father, T.L. Morrisey; and Hubert Darrell was the son of Charles Darrell.

Adam Shoalts' book is the story of Hubert Darrell. Hubert was already well known and respected by other explorers before his disappearance in 1910; his disappearance and death was a mystery that Adam Shoalts has convincingly solved. As I wrote in an E-mail to Evelyn Walters when she contacted me in 2010 asking if I had heard of Darrell Morrisey, "I love a mystery", and the mystery of Darrell Morrisey has more or less also been solved; however, the story of the "two Darrells", Hubert Darrell and Darrell Morrisey, is still of interest and my intention here is to offer more of the history of these two extraordinary people.

On a personal note, in the 1940s Darrell Morrisey's brother, T.S. (Sydney) Morrisey, contacted my mother to see if his family was related to ours (they aren't); Sydney Morrisey was working on his family history as his father, T.L. Morrisey, had done before him. Over the years my mother mentioned this phone call from T.S. Morrisey several times, she was impressed with Colonel Sydney Morrisey, she immediately liked him as probably most people did who met him. It must be twenty years ago, in 2005 or 2006, that Cynthia Coristine, who lives in Ottawa, contacted me also inquiring if our Morrissey family is related to the family of T.S. Morrisey. Beatrice Coristine, an ancestor of Cynthia Coristine, was married to T.S. Morrisey, the brother of Darrell Morrisey; Beatrice Coristine is a daughter of James Coristine whose fur company was located in the Coristine Building, that James Coristine had constructed between 1901 and 1907, at 410 Rue Saint-Nicolas in Old Montreal. Cynthia Coristine is a great granddaughter of James Coristine. These kind of familial and synchronistic connections make this adventure of

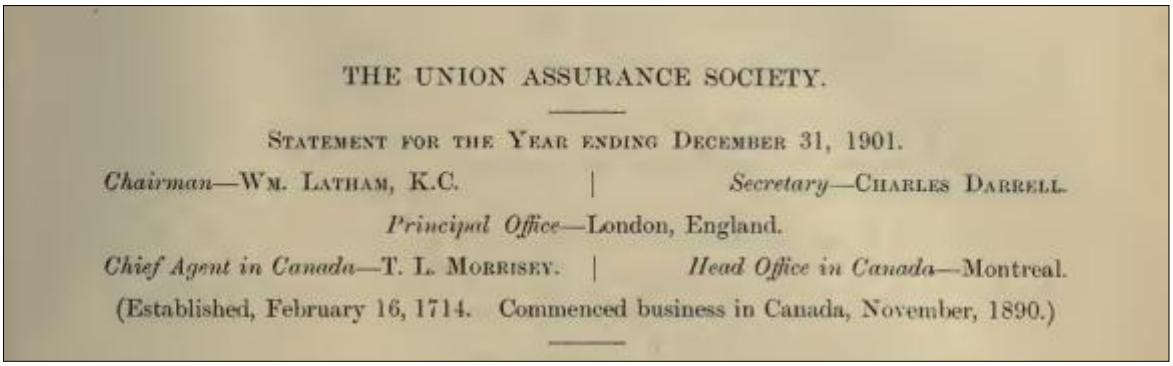
discovering more about Hubert Darrell and Darrell Morrisey all that more interesting; the various layers of historical facts unfold revealing the lives behind dates and places, and the mystery of who these people are is revealed.

CHARLES DARRELL AND T.L. MORRISEY

Charles Darrell (28 January 1841 - 22 April 1921) was born in Ayton, Scarborough, Yorkshire (Hutton Bushel, Yorkshire) England; he had seven siblings listed in the 1841 census. Charles Darrell married Emily Elizabeth Jones (1848 - 1943) in 1861; all of their children were born in Chislehurst or, about two miles away, in Sidcup, Kent. The family were prosperous, closely knit, and apparently happy.

When Charles Darrell visited T.L. Morrisey, his friend and business associate in Montreal, he may also have been on his way to, or returning from, visiting his sons, Hubert Darrell and Charles Darrell Jr., in Birtle, Manitoba. Charles Darrell was about twenty years older than T.L. Morrisey; they were executives in the same insurance company. While T.L. Morrisey rose from fairly humble conditions, Charles Darrell came from a rural, hard working family that were prosperous. The two men must have been good friends considering that T.L. Morrisey named his daughter, "Darrell" Clare Morrisey, after Charles Darrell; this was the first mystery of Darrell Morrisey, how did she come by this unusual name? Now we know.

There are several sources showing that Charles Darrell and T.L. Morrisey were business associates in the Union Assurance Society; Charles Darrell was the company secretary at the London, England, head office while T.L. Morrisey ran the Canadian branch, the head office was located in Montreal, then the business capital of Canada. Charles Darrell was twenty years older than T.L. Morrisey, perhaps he mentored Morrisey in the insurance business and they became good friends. They were both men of position and authority, and intelligence, who had risen in their profession. Here is a brief excerpt from one of the reports in which Charles Darrell and T.L. Morrisey are mentioned in their capacity as officers of this company; it is from a Report of the Superintendent of Insurance of the Dominion of Canada for the year ending 31st December 1901:



THE UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1901.

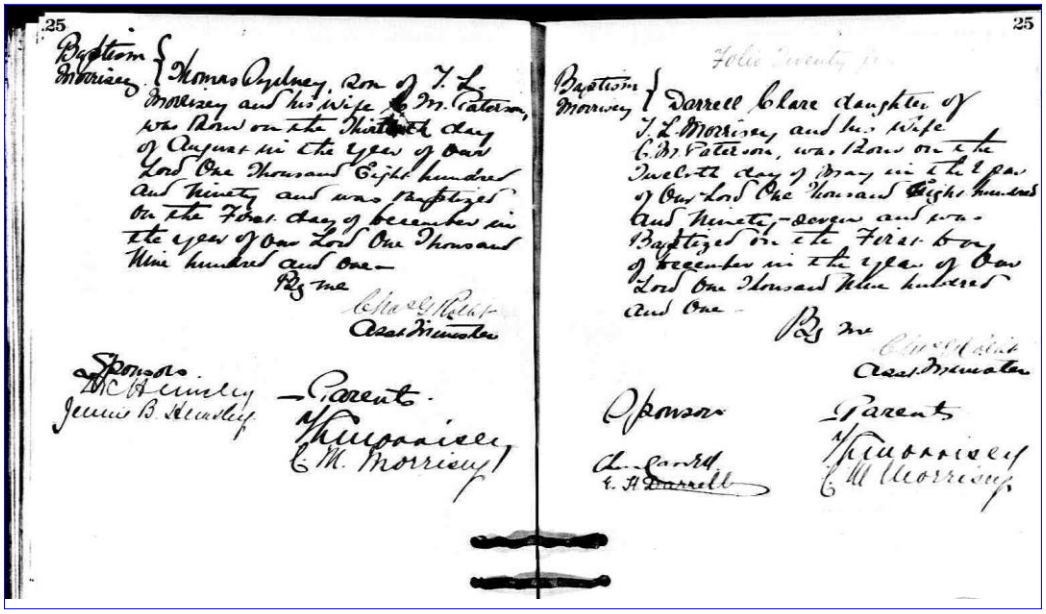
Chairman—WM. LATHAM, K.C. | *Secretary*—CHARLES DARRELL.

Principal Office—London, England.

Chief Agent in Canada—T. L. MORRISEY. | *Head Office in Canada*—Montreal.

(Established, February 16, 1714. Commenced business in Canada, November, 1890.)

In 1909, Charles and his wife, Emily, visited Canada and are listed on the ship's manifest as "tourists" who were going to Montreal; the ship's manifest lists their last visit to Canada as having been in 1890 although we know they visited in 1901. In December 1901, Charles Darrell and his wife Emily attended the baptism of Darrell Morrisey in Montreal, at St. James the Apostle Anglican Church (now known as St. Jax Church) on Ste. Catherine Street in downtown Montreal, they were listed as sponsors or god parents of Darrell Morrisey. The baptism was on 01 December 1901; Darrell Morrisey was born on 12 May 1897; Darrell Morrisey's older brother, Thomas Sydney Morrisey, was baptized on the same day that Darrell Morrisey was baptized; he was born on 30 August 1890.



On the right side of the image, at the bottom, under "Sponsors", is the signature of Charles Darrell and his wife, E.H. Darrell; from the records of St. James the Apostle Church, Montreal; dated 01 December 1901

In September 1913, Charles Darrell stopped over in Montreal after visiting his son, Charles Jr. in Birtle, Manitoba: this would also have been near the third anniversary of the disappearance of Hubert Darrell. When Charles Darrell returned to the UK in 1913 he accompanied T.L. Morrisey's daughter, Darrell Morrisey, who would attend Tudor Hall School, located at that time in Chislehurst near where the Darrell family lived. In Montreal, Darrell Morrisey had been a student at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School, located a few blocks from their home on Church Hill Avenue. She was also a student at the Art Association of Montreal, the precursor of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, where she studied with William Brymner and Maurice Cullen; her various activities were reported in the social notes of Montreal newspapers. On 18 August 1914 Darrell Morrisey returned to Montreal accompanied by her father after her year at Tudor Hall School. Charles Darrell's Montreal visit of 1913 is mentioned in a Montreal newspaper at the time:

Mr. Charles Darrell, of Sidcup, England, who was Mrs. T. L. Morrisey's guest at "Hazelbrae" for a few days, has left for the west, returning to Montreal about the first of September. Miss Darrell Morrisey, who is his god-daughter, will accompany him on his return home, and will attend school at Chislehurst, England.

"Hazelbrae" is the home of T.L. Morrisey and family on Church Hill Avenue in Westmount, Quebec**.** Below are photographs of T.L. Morrisey and his family outside of Hazelbrae:

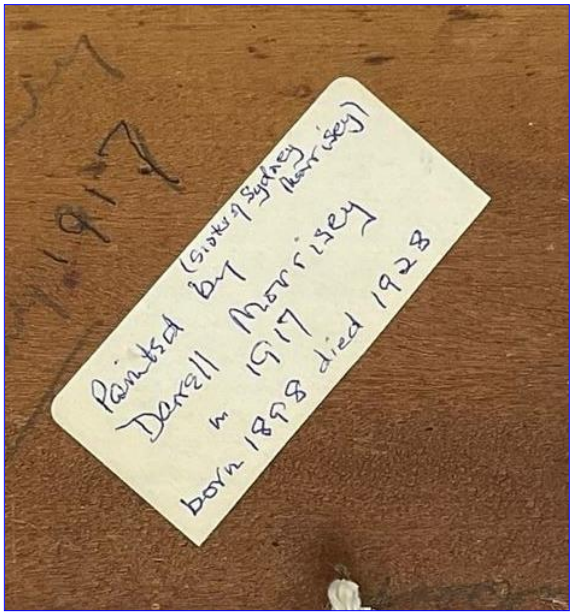
From left: Darrell Morrisey, her father T.L. Morrisey, her brother T.S. (Sydney) Morrisey, and her mother Clara Mae Paterson Morrisey

"Hazelbrae", home of T.L. Morrisey and family, located at 85 Church Hill Avenue, Westmount, Quebec

A Painting By Darrell Morrisey

A few years ago I purchased a painting, "Sunset Landscape" (1917), by Darrell Morrisey, it was originally sold by David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, North Yorkshire; is this near where Charles Darrell lived as a young man? Does this suggest that one of the descendants of Charles Darrell's family, who inherited the painting, still lives or visits this area of England? It has written on a sticker on the reverse side of the painting a note identifying that Darrell Morrisey is the sister of Sydney Morrisey; this also records the provenance of the painting:

"Sunset Landscape" (1917) by Darrell Morrisey



On reverse of painting (enlarged)

HUBERT DARRELL AND HIS BROTHER, CHARLES DARRELL JR.

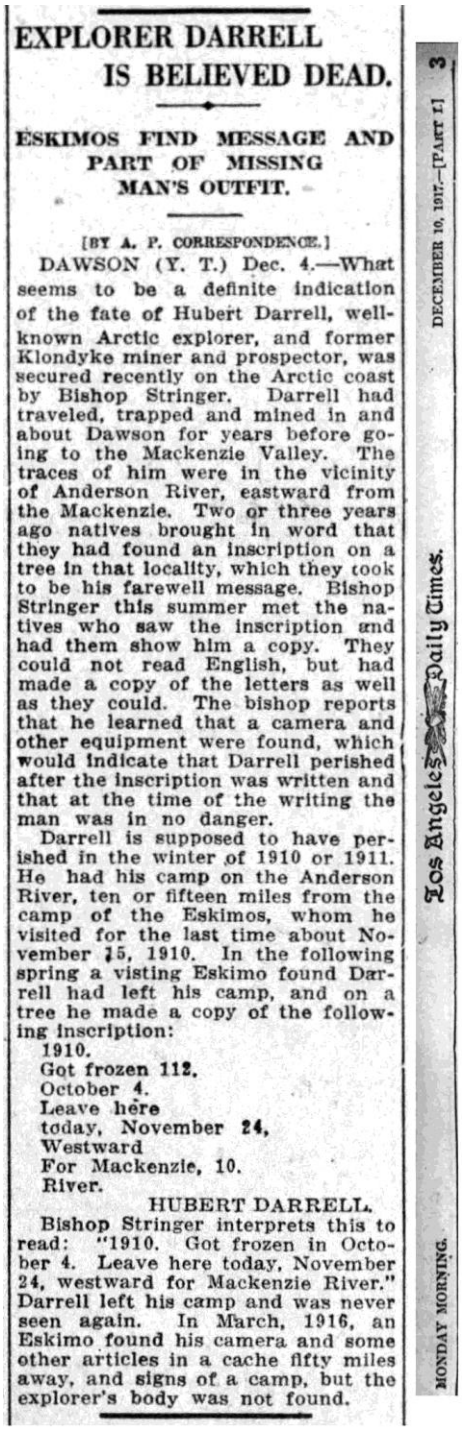
Adam Shoalts mentions that both Hubert Darrell and his older brother, Charles Darrell Jr., didn't continue with their education or go into business; instead, they moved to the town of Birtle in the Province of Manitoba in Canada to farm. Cynthia Coristine suggested to me that going to university may not have been as common in the 19th century as it has become in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Oxford and Cambridge, the two main English universities in the 19th Century, were attended by members of the clergy and by their sons who studied theology and the classics. Only in our century have universities become a way to middle class, white collar, employment.

It is curious that the two brothers chose to move to Manitoba, a place they probably had hardly heard of. Farm land in Manitoba was still inexpensive; the Canadian government wanted immigrants and encouraged people, especially from the United Kingdom, to settle the Prairie Provinces. Surely, Charles Darrell could have helped his two sons buy or lease farmland in his native Yorkshire. In 1890, the year the brothers moved to Canada, the price of farmland in Yorkshire had declined due to "the Great Depression of British Agriculture"; at least 85% of farmland was leased because land ownership was not seen as financially advantageous. For Charles Darrell to allow his two sons to go off on this adventure—Charles Jr. was around 19 years old, Hubert was around 16 years old—seems either overly trusting in his sons, overly indulgent, or were the boys just head strong, or was there some other reason? What did the boys know about farming before they left? Why did they decide to be farmers in a far off place at such an early age? They sailed to Canada in 1890 and made their way to Birtle, Manitoba.

According to Hubert Darrell's correspondence with his parents, mentioned in Adam Shoalts' book, Hubert grew up in a loving and happy family; Charles and Emily would have wanted what was best for their sons, but moving to Manitoba seems peculiar; in comparison, when Charles Darrell was young he moved to London, married, had a family, and made a successful career in the insurance business; why didn't Charles Jr. and Hubert follow suit? Is it possible that this is a case of one of the sons being a "remittance man"? This is "an emigrant, often from Britain to a British colony, who was supported by regular payments from home on the expectation that he would stay away." This refers to sons who are in some way not conforming to what was expected of them in society; this could refer to drinking, gambling, homosexuality, and so on. Meanwhile, Charles and Emily's two other sons became solicitors and businessmen, had families and careers, and helped take care of their aging parents.

Just two months before his father's death, in April 1921, and eleven years after Hubert Darrell disappeared in northern Canada, Charles Jr. married his brother's fiancé, Agnes Dudley; she requested this marriage, she wanted the Darrell surname as a way to formalize her love for Hubert. Just weeks after marrying Agnes Dudley, Charles Jr. visited the UK where he stayed with his mother and his sisters who lived with her; he lived at his mother's home for the next eighteen months. The occasion for this visit was that his father was in poor health; indeed, he died on 22 April 1921, shortly after Charles Jr.'s arrival. The 1921 census records that Emily (73 years old), and her two daughters (Agnes Harriet, age 36, and Violet Wynfreda, age 29), and Charles Darrell Jr. (in his fifties), were living at 7, Winchester Road, Worthing, Sussex. Thirty-one years later Charles Darrell Jr. died, in poverty, at his home in Birtle, Manitoba, on 10 April 1952.

Adam Shoalts has convincingly offered a solution to what happened to Hubert Darrell. So that I don't spoil reading Mr. Shoalts' book I recommend reading *Vanished Beyond the Map, The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell* (2025); it is a book that I very much enjoyed reading and that I recommend.



EXPLORER DARRELL IS BELIEVED DEAD.

ESKIMOS FIND MESSAGE AND PART OF MISSING MAN'S OUTFIT.

[BY A. P. CORRESPONDENCE.]

DAWSON (Y. T.) Dec. 4.—What seems to be a definite indication of the fate of Hubert Darrell, well-known Arctic explorer, and former Klondyke miner and prospector, was secured recently on the Arctic coast by Bishop Stringer. Darrell had traveled, trapped and mined in and about Dawson for years before going to the Mackenzie Valley. The traces of him were in the vicinity of Anderson River, eastward from the Mackenzie. Two or three years ago natives brought in word that they had found an inscription on a tree in that locality, which they took to be his farewell message. Bishop Stringer this summer met the natives who saw the inscription and had them show him a copy. They could not read English, but had made a copy of the letters as well as they could. The bishop reports that he learned that a camera and other equipment were found, which would indicate that Darrell perished after the inscription was written and that at the time of the writing the man was in no danger.

Darrell is supposed to have perished in the winter of 1910 or 1911. He had his camp on the Anderson River, ten or fifteen miles from the camp of the Eskimos, whom he visited for the last time about November 15, 1910. In the following spring a visting Eskimo found Darrell had left his camp, and on a tree he made a copy of the following inscription:

1910.
Got frozen 112.
October 4.
Leave here
today, November 24,
Westward
For Mackenzie, 10.
River.
HUBERT DARRELL.

Bishop Stringer interprets this to read: "1910. Got frozen in October 4. Leave here today, November 24, westward for Mackenzie River." Darrell left his camp and was never seen again. In March, 1916, an Eskimo found his camera and some other articles in a cache fifty miles away, and signs of a camp, but the explorer's body was not found.

Los Angeles Daily Times. DECEMBER 10, 1917.—[PART I] 3 MONDAY MORNING.

ARCTIC MYSTERIES.

UNKNOWN TRIBE OF BLONDE ESKIMOS.

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES

SEATTLE, Tuesday.

M. Vilhjalmar Stefansson, after four years of Arctic exploration with Dr. R. M. Anderson, has arrived here. He spent the first winter at the mouth of the Colville River, in Alaska; the second at Cape Parry, the third in Coronation Gulf and Victoria Land, and the fourth at Cape Parry.

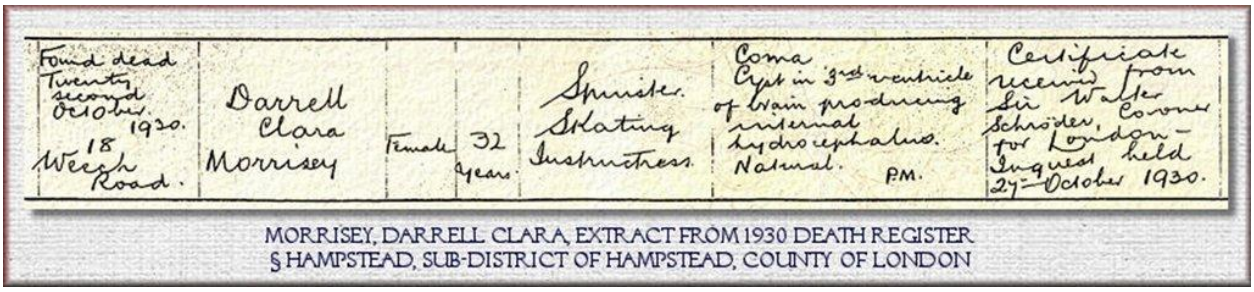
He has made valuable zoological and ethnological collections, and found pottery farther north than ever known before. He also found grass baskets, and discovered a tribe of white, blonde Eskimos in Coronation Gulf.

They spoke Eskimo, though the explorer thought that he detected some Norse words. They probably numbered 2,000. Many of them had perfectly blue eyes and blonde eyebrows.

M. Stefansson believes that the Englishman, Hubert Darrell, is dead. He was last seen in 1909 journeying towards Liverpool Bay from Bailey Island, pulling a sled.—Reuter.

THE Special Edition PALL MALL GAZETTE TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1912

THE DEATH OF DARRELL MORRISEY



Found dead Twenty second October 1930. 18 Weech Road.	Darrell Clara Morrisey	Female	32 years	Spinster. Skating Instructress	Coma Cyst in 3rd ventricle of brain producing internal hydrocephalus. Natural. P.M.	Certificate received from Sir Walter Schröder, Coroner for London – Inquest held 24th October 1930.

MORRISEY, DARRELL CLARA, EXTRACT FROM 1930 DEATH REGISTER
§ HAMPSTEAD, SUB-DISTRICT OF HAMPSTEAD, COUNTY OF LONDON

Darrell Morrisey, coroner's report on cause of her death

In September 1926, five years after Charles Darrell's death, his good friend T.L. Morrisey retired from a long and distinguished career at The Union Assurance Society**.** T.L. Morrisey, his wife Clara Paterson Morrisey, and their daughter Darrell Morrisey sailed to the UK, landing in Liverpool; they planned to stay in England and France for the winter. A few days after arriving in London, T.L. Morrisey died of "bronchitis and heart failure", that was on 1 November 1926. Four years later, on 22 October 1930, Darrell Morrisey also died in London where she was now living; she was only thirty-three years old.

At first, news of the circumstances of Darrell Morrisey's death was confused; she left Montreal for London on 14 September 1930, listing her occupation on the ship's manifest as "none", and this voyage to London was after having only briefly visited Montreal; her intention was to take up permanent residence in England. In Montreal she had been living with her mother at 2090 Sherbrooke Street West; a few months ago, by chance, I parked outside of this apartment building in downtown Montreal and it is still attractive and appears well-maintained. On 23 October 1930, the Montreal *Gazette* reported Darrell's passing, they stated that she was "stricken with heart failure at the home of friends in London and died"; it continues, she was well-known in "aesthetic and art circles" but her art career was considered a "hobby". There were rumours about the cause of her death; heart failure was speculation and conjecture.

But let's go back a few weeks. When Darrell returned to London in September 1930 she took up residence at 18 Weech Road, Hampstead, London; she was renting a room there from J. Alex Rose and his wife Elizabeth Grace Booth, they were a young couple and had married in 1926. Rose was a vaudevillian performer. Rose and his wife moved into the house on Weech Road in June 1930, this is where Darrell died on 22 October 1930. Between 1931 and 1935 (when the Rose's moved out) Alex and his wife Elizabeth were living at this address with three other couples (the "Gills", the "Simms" and the "Stevensons") who were their boarders; the Roses weren't Darrell's friends, she lived in their home for about four weeks in a rented room.

When Darrell Morrisey was younger she performed as a figure skater which was a popular activity for wealthy young women like Darrell. Perhaps she decided she could make money, or spend her time, teaching figure skating in London; we don't know if her family helped her financially. Darrell chose to live in Hampstead, one of the most exclusive and wealthy areas

in London. Figure skating in England was a very popular activity in the 1930s—it was a craze!—and Darrell was an excellent figure skater. One place to figure skate was near where she lived, at Whitestone Pond, Hampstead; from where Darrell was living at 18 Weech Road walking to Whitestone Pond takes only fifteen minute, it is just over one mile in distance; however, it is unlikely that Whitestone Pond was frozen in September or October. She must have skated at an indoor location, for instance Queens Ice Club in Bayswater, one of London's major indoor venues recently opened in October 1930; alternately, she could have skated at Golders Green Ice Rink on Finchley Road. Both of these in-door ice skating rinks are easily accessible from Darrell's home on Weech Road.

The Montreal newspaper *La Patrie* reports, on 23 October 1930, that Darrell had a fainting spell on the morning of 22 October 1930; she then returned to the home of friends where she died later that day. Here is another scenario: Darrell fell while figure skating on 21 October 1930, a Monday, and suffered a head injury, she then returned home to Weech Road and went to bed. During the night she became comatose and died. The next morning, on 22 October 1930, Mr. or Mrs. Rose knocked on her bedroom door to ask after her; they discovered that she was deceased.

Darrell's sudden passing must have bewildered her family and friends; they must have wondered how a healthy, active, young woman could have died so suddenly. She arrived in London in late September 1930 and she was dead a few weeks later. Family anecdotes regarding Darrell's passing are also interesting and are consistent with aspects of the newspaper reports of that time. One anecdote is that Darrell was killed when she and a "beau" tobogganed into a tree in Switzerland. A second anecdote is that she had been teaching figure skating in London and had fallen while practicing with her partner and died of a blood clot in her brain several days later. Both of these anecdotes include an accident, a serious injury, and possibly a head injury. We have the coroner's report which we might assume the family also received. The coroner's report explains a pre-existing medical condition, one that was impossible for anyone to know about, that led to her death. The cause of Darrell Morrisey's death are preserved on her death certificate: “Coma. Cyst in 3rd ventricle in brain producing Hydrocephalus. Normal.” ("Normal" refers to "Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, NPH)". This cause of death was accepted at an inquest into Darrell's death.

A head injury can significantly exacerbate, trigger, or cause acquired hydrocephalus. Trauma can cause bleeding or inflammation that blocks the brain's cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) pathways, leading to fluid accumulation. This condition is known as post-traumatic hydrocephalus (PTH) and can worsen neurological outcomes. In the year preceding her death, Darrell Morrisey may have experienced persistent headaches, visual disturbances, and subtle cognitive fatigue. These symptoms, while troubling, would not necessarily have suggested a grave neurological disorder to physicians of the time. Or, her symptoms of hydrocephalus may have been minimal and then exasperated by her head injury. A brain cyst can alter personality, common behavioral changes include increased irritability, impulsivity, apathy, depression, anxiety, or mood swings. Symptoms of this pressure can be misdiagnosed for months as depression, including low-tempered mood, loss of appetite, memory disturbances, and cognitive decline. These symptoms suggest there might have been a change in Darrell's behaviour in the months leading up to her death. It was a sad and tragic end for a young and talented woman.

MISS C. D. MORRISEY DIES IN ENGLAND

Gazette — 23/10/30

Montrealer Was on Holiday, Visiting Friends, When Heart Attack Develops

News of the sudden death in London, England, yesterday morning of Miss Clara Darrell Morrisey, only daughter of the late T. L. and Clara Paterson Morrisey, of Montreal, has been received here.

Miss Morrisey, who was well-known in this city, especially in aesthetic and art circles, had left Montreal in September to visit friends in England. Early yesterday morning she was stricken with heart failure at the home of friends in London, and died. She was in her thirty-third year.

Born in Montreal, the only daughter of the late T. L. and Clara Paterson Morrisey, Miss Morrisey was educated at Miss Edgar's School here. Later, she became attracted to art and devoted much of her time to it as a hobby. She was a member of the Montreal Art Gallery and had gathered about her a wide circle of friends highly appreciative of her artistic abilities.

Miss Morrisey resided here at 2090 Sherbrooke street west, with her mother, Mrs. Clara Paterson Morrisey, who survives her, as does one brother, T. S. Morrisey, of Cedar avenue.

Cremation will take place in London, and the ashes will be brought back to Montreal.

Published in the Montreal *Gazette*, 23 October 1930

UNE MONTREALAISE MEURT A LONDRES

On mande de Londres la mort soudaine de mademoiselle Clara Darrell Morrisey, de Montréal, fille unique du regretté T.-L. et Clara Paterson Morrisey. Mlle Morrisey, qui était avantageusement connue, en cette ville, surtout dans les cercles artistiques et esthétiques avait quitté Montréal, en septembre dernier, afin de rendre visite à des amis en Angleterre. Elle fut frappée d'une syncope, dans la matinée de mercredi, à la demeure de ses amies, à Londres et succomba. Mlle Morrisey était membre de la Galerie des Arts de Montréal.

Published in *La Patrie*, 23 October 1930

AND IN THE END

For most of his life Charles Darrell was financially secure, the Darrells were wealthy, and the family were happy with the standard of living that he provided. When Charles Darrell died in 1921 his estate was valued at £4541 9s 11d. in 1921 pounds; its value in 2026 would have been £288,000 – £290,000 or $390,000 USD. When Charles Darrell's widow, Emily, died in her 96th year in 1943, with two adult daughters living at home, the estate was now in debt and worth minus £782 9s 0d., or equivalent to minus £45,600 to £46,500 in 2026, or minus $59,252 in 2026 American dollars.

It is curious that two of Charles Darrell's sons became solicitors or businessmen while Charles Darrell Jr. became a subsistence farmer in Manitoba; Hubert Darrell became recognized as an explorer of Canada's far north. One son, Sydney Thornton Darrell, who had worked in the insurance business and was a solicitor, looked after probate. Probate laws in the UK are different than they are here in Canada so I can't comment on this; we have no inheritance tax in Canada. Many people in the UK were devastated by exorbitant inheritance taxes, estates had to be sold, servants let go, and the old order came to an end. Before 1911, when Charles Darrell had a good salary, he employed a governess and house servants. The 1911 census has the family living in a 13 room house. But something happened between 1911 and 1921 and the family moved to 7 Winchester Road, Worthing, Sussex, a fairly humble residence in comparison to their previous homes.

All of Charles and Emily's daughters found employment: Violet Wynfreda Darrell became a missionary in New Zealand, she died in 1939; Beatrice Stella Darrell was a teacher and nurse companion, she died in 1972; Lillian Margaret Darrell found employment as a teacher, she died in early January 1979; another daughter, Agnes Irene Darrell was employed as a parlour maid, she died in late January 1979. Of the sons, other than Charles Jr. and Hubert, Claud Edward Darrell was a solicitor, he died in 1916; and Sydney Thornton Darrell was an insurance clerk and solicitor, he died in 1959.

It is Hubert Darrell and Darrell Morrisey that interest us; they did not live conventional lives; a poem by Robert Frost describes their lives, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—/ I took the one less traveled by,/ And that has made all the difference." One became a farmer and an explorer, the other an artist. Neither Hubert Darrell nor Darrell Morrisey married, settled down, owned property, or followed a traditional career. They were respectable but they did not allow the public appearance of respectability to deter them from what they wanted to do in life. Hubert Darrell became an almost mythological figure; he was known for his integrity, his exploration of the far north, his physical endurance, his disappearance in the wilderness, and the unsolved circumstances of his death. Unlike most others in Darrell Morrisey's social milieu Darrell became an artist, she dedicated her life to expressing what she observed, to her art, and to the mostly solitary occupation of being an artist. In Montreal she had associated with people who would, in a few years, become some of the most prominent artists in Canada. Darrell disappeared from the art community as she began spending more of her time in England and France; she died suddenly in London from a pre-existing condition; what is tragic in Darrell Morrisey's life is that she died so young and that most of her body of work has disappeared.

To this day the two Darrells have an aura of mystery surrounding them, it is this aura, or charisma, that helps make them interesting; both followed what they wanted to do in life, they followed what they loved to do, they had passion for living, and we admire this about them. Today, the story of Hubert Darrell is revealed in Adam Shoalts' book on him; meanwhile, Darrell Morrisey was almost completely forgotten until around 2010 but we now know the details of her life and several of her paintings have been discovered; the fact is, the two Darrells didn't live and die in vain, we are still talking and writing about them today.

NOTES

Adam Shoalts, *Vanished Beyond the Map, The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell* (2025).

Research by Cynthia Coristine on her family's history and on the life of Darrell Morrisey.

Donna J. Sararas's research on Charles Darrell, Jr.

The Heene Cemetery website.

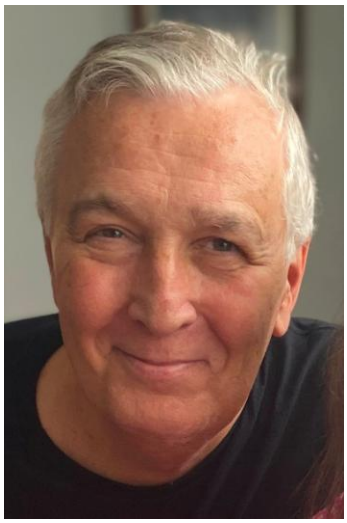
Information on Charles and Emily Darrell, https://www.familysearch.org/en/canada/.

The McCord-Stewart Museum of Montreal History.

Darrell Morrisey, A Forgotten Beaver Hall Artist, Stephen Morrissey.

Remembering Darrell Morrisey, Stephen Morrissey.

About the Author



Montreal born poet Stephen Morrissey is the author of twelve books, including poetry and literary criticism. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Honours in English with Distinction, from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University) in 1973. In 1976 he graduated with a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from McGill University. The Stephen Morrissey Fonds, 1963 - 2014, are housed at Rare Books and Special Collections of the McLennan Library at McGill University. He has also researched and written on the Morrissey family history; his maternal ancestors originated in Blackburn, Lancashire, England, not far from Charles Darrell's ancestral home of Yorkshire. Stephen Morrissey married Vancouver poet Carolyn Zonailo in 1995; he has one son, Jake Morrissey, who has a PhD in medieval literature and a step-daughter, Cassidy Johnson, who is a professor at University College London.

Visit the poet at www.stephenmorrissey.ca

THE TWO DARRELLS
HUBERT DARRELL AND DARRELL MORRISEY

Hubert Darrell, who explored and mapped parts of Canada's far north, is the son of Charles Darrell after whom, coincidentally, Darrell Morrisey was named. In 1890 Hubert Darrell moved to Birtle, Manitoba and several years later he began his exploration and mapping of Canada's far north. Darrell Morrisey was an artist and member of the prestigious Beaver Hall Group of artists. The two Darrells never met and, tragically, they both died young, but they lived true to their inner calling, one that was far removed from the expectations of their families and social class.

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